

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOLUME VII. NO. 12.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1889.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

The Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL
For News and Home Reading

Published by THE
Bloomfield Publishing Company,
Bloomfield, Essex County, N. J.

Office at the Post Office at Bloomfield as Second Class
Matter.

Office on Broad St., near the Post Office.

(Circulation for 1888)
Circulation for 1888 1,000
Circulation for 1889 1,000
Subscription price in advance.

S. MORRIS HULIN, Publisher.

Proved Contamination of Artesian Wells.

From the Sanitary Era.

It has been too long taken for granted that deep piped wells cannot admit of organic contamination from the neighboring surface, nor draw impure water unfiltered from a distance through subterranean channels. The *Sanitary Era* has often explained how both these misfortunes may easily happen at any time and in any case, so far as can be foreseen. The filtering assurance on which so many millions have been spent for deep well water supplies has been dispelled by the result in a number of places. But the first scientific investigation and exposure of such a result that has come under our notice was lately made under the authority of the enlightened and progressive Health Department of the city of Atlanta.

The artesian well at that place is 204 feet deep, and has been regarded by the public with pride and confidence as a source of pure water; confidence and pride which a few civic authorities would venture to disturb under any circumstances. Perhaps the Atlanta Board of Health would not have felt at liberty to disturb public confidence in what was of late their best visible source of supply, if the Weyt system had not now insured abundant water of standard sanitary quality at their doors.

The great well, however, has been under chemical observation for two years, and a proper time has arrived for a public report, which appears in the *Constitution*. Premising that the well is supplied by four veins of water at 102, 150, and 1,160 feet, respectively from the surface; the last and deepest of which supplies nine tenths of the water obtained; a series of analyses are given by Mr. McCandless and Professors White and Gasque, which show a constantly increasing and concurrent contamination with sodium chloride and both free and combined ammonia. The ammonia has been doubled in amount; from .04 to .08 parts per million for the albuminoid, and in equal proportion (.02 to .08) for the free. This of course means organically polluted water from the surface, near or far, imperfectly filtered by its deep percolation, and wearing its channels deeper and deeper year by year, as should be expected.

The sodium chlorides and total solids, though excessive, might be supposed to come from mineral sources; but for their suspicious association with ammonia, their constant increase, concurrent with the ammonia, and finally, the conclusive fact that the more thoroughly the mineral sources are drawn upon by exhaustive pumping, the smaller are the respective proportions of chloride, of ammonia, and of total solids, found in the water. The latter fact indicates beyond a doubt, that the sodium chloride is derived from no mineral deposits, but must come from the decomposition of animal matter, along with the ammonia.

The explanation, suggested by the report, of this remarkable penetration of organic contamination to indefinite depths in harmony with the argument we have so often advanced for publicity. We quote:

"With a 6 in. iron pipe extending 200 ft. only, within a bored well, 8 in. diameter, and 1,600 ft. deep, what can prevent surface water freely flowing into the well? It will not do, to suppose that the 5 in. iron pipe driven into the ground at the depth of 81 feet below the surface, will or can shut out the shallow streams. It will not do to claim that the granite it will shut out the presence in granite for miles of veins, cracks, and fissures. To insist as we are to do, that the 1 in. and is constrained by some duty to express officially that the artesian well is a public nuisance. It may be that the

use of the water is even attended with some risk, and we fear it bids fair to become more and more polluted, and in the near future, unless great amendment is secured, that it will prove fatally defective. And while the Board is not prepared to condemn without qualification the use of this water, it desires to go on record as declaring the water impure and of doubtful safety for drinking purposes."

The Board recommend that the extension of the water mains be discontinued, especially where they are parallel to the mains of absolutely unexceptional water now secured by Hyatt purification.

The water of deep bored wells is usually the surface water of remote regions where it has found openings to pass the rock crust, and thence percolate gradually through seams of the underlying strata, dissolving the various mineral salts it encounters, and thus becoming impregnated with many objectionable ingredients in exchange for the organic impurities which may have been filtered out. It is scarcely possible that there should be any exceptions, to speak of, to this statement, unless the depth and density of the filtering strata have been insufficient to allow of the mineral solutions or to eliminate the usual and casual organic impurities. In rare cases there may be filtration mainly through silicious and granitic formations that yield little of the soluble salts that spoil deep drawn waters generally; but the probability of such an exception is seldom if ever worth boring for. We meet with none such in our careful examination of all the numerous accounts of boring for deep water. Shallow water—that is, anywhere short of hundreds of feet depth—is of course liable, like surface waters, to organic contamination at times if not regularly.

A judicious contributor to the *Scientific American* of Jan. 19th describes minutely the artesian wells of Reading, Pa., which are all (of course) too much mineralized to be fit for steam or laundry purposes; while the common wells are literally poisonous. "It is a well-known fact," he says "that malaria and typhoid fevers are inhabitants of this district. The sparkling fever water from common wells is largely used by the common people, and sewerage is neglected as too costly by a parsimonious city government. The lower levels of the city are constantly flooded with excess of surface water, which not only invades the cellars, but actually bubbles up in the streets in many places as natural springs of typhoid engendering water."

SUMMER CORRESPONDENCE.

Noyes Beach, Westerly, R. I., July 16, 1889.

It seems strange that so many visitors to New York and Brooklyn during the summer months should think that because they have visited Manhattan Beach and promenade board walks, they have seen Coney Island. The fact is that they do not know anything about it. A nice day's outing can be enjoyed by taking the Brooklyn, Bath, & West End Railroad—train every fifteen minutes—buy a stop-over ticket to Coney Island, and pay a visit to Bath Beach, and lovely Bensonhurst by the Sea, and the Brooklyn Club House where some of the handsomest boats in the world are at anchor or sailing; then take the train and in less than five minutes reach the very heart of Coney Island. The Bath & West End R.R. have shown more enterprise in the perfection and management of their route than any other Coney Island railroad, and fully deserves the large and increasing patronage. The summer cottages along this road are most picturesque, and there are plenty of hotels where visitors can be well entertained.

Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, the new President of Sorosis, is very handsome, very amiable and accomplished. There is no more popular woman in New York, and this popularity is the result of a wonderful tact and the most perfect good nature. These qualities will be found very useful in Sorosis where there are so many bright women and brilliant theorists, all anxious to put theory into practice.

I am asked if Miss M. G. Anderson will take the trouble to match goods for out of town purchasers. This lady never refuses any kind of shopping because it is difficult. The pure skin emollient and wrinkle eliminator which I have told my readers about is not manufactured by Miss Anderson. It may be called her discovery. A few ladies of New York and Brooklyn, knowing the thoroughness and

honesty of this guide and shopper, commissioned her to find something they could use with safety and efficacy for the complexion and scalp. This she did to the great joy and satisfaction of her customers. My friends can find out all about it by sending to her at 305 Lexington avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

There will be a fine opportunity for women to study law in New York, the coming fall. Mrs. Emily Kempin, a graduate of the University of Zurich, Switzerland, will establish a school in the American Metropolis. The instruction is to be given in the form of lectures.

"I went to hear Bob Ingersoll lecture, and since that time I have not been able to pray," a lady writes me. "Until that fatal evening," she adds with infinite pathos, "I could always in the most weary and troubled moments rest and comfort myself by means of prayer. Now I am adrift, and as unhappy a creature as lives on the earth. Do you believe in prayer?" I do indeed, and it would take more than one Ingersoll to change my convictions. When this would be spiritual iconoclasm will explain to me it is how and the why of the very simplest of one, our every day phenomenon, it will be time enough to be influenced by his arguments. He knows no more about this "mighty, universal plan" than the rest of us. He has neither facts nor figures to prove that there is no God and no life after death. He simply lays down propositions which he calls "logical." Now I like to hear Col. Ingersoll lecture just as I like to see a beautiful pyrotechnic display, and the next day the last has just as much influence upon me as the first. "No prayer was ever answered," this man declares. Can he prove this? Other men as brilliant and logical as he, believe in prayer, and believe that their prayers have been answered. But if no prayer was ever answered, I should still believe in it. By prayer I mean a certain spiritual attitude, a spiritual communion with whatever is elevating and harmonizing in the universe. I don't mean the kind of prayer that asks God for money to build a house, while the petitioner sits and waits for the postman to bring a check, nor the parrot-like recital of "Our Father who art in Heaven." I mean prayer which is a fervent desire for more strength, courage, hope, usefulness and charity. There are no words which will describe the joy which follows such uplifting of the spirit. My prayers are answered when I experience this renewal of hope, this subtle, delightful, all-satisfying feeling. Col. Ingersoll may call it nervous excitement, hysteria, or whatever he pleases. It is life and health and peace to me, and all the arguments of all the scoffers that were ever created could not move me a hair's breadth. I hope my correspondent will try to attain the place herself in harmony with the real things of this life—the sweet, the true, the beautiful—which are always the spiritual.

"A Grumpy Fearer" confesses that she has never dared leave her after-dinner dishes long enough to take a nap for fear of what her neighbors might say. Go to bed, my dear, and take a good rest, long or short, as seems necessary. You will wash your dishes in one quarter of the time, and you will be refreshed for the rest of the day. A farmer would never allow his horses to be worked as most farmers' wives are. Think of a horse trotting day after day and year after year from four o'clock in the morning with perhaps fifteen minutes at noon and at night to bolt their food. But treated since time immemorial, and they seem to have very little more sense now than their grandmothers had. If I could persuade these inde fatigable workers to take a nap when they were sleepy or exhausted, I should not have lived in vain. Afraid of Mrs. Grumpy? Isn't it tedious?

ELLENOR KIRK.

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variety, reduced from 35c and 25c to 25c

and 32c. FRENCH CHALLIES, from 50c

to 35c.

AMERICA'S CHALLIES, 12 1/2c and 15c.

Dark and light COTTON CHALLIES,

45c.

FINE WASH GOODS.

Super Ex. Broadcloth Scotch Ginghams, 50c.

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40c to 25c. Real Scotch Plaid Scotch Ginghams,

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Children's blouses, navy &

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Ladies' striped blouses 68c.

We have still remaining

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100 Pint " " " "

Poland, Buffalo Lithia (Case 12 1/2 Gal. Bottles,

100 Pint " " " "

Longferry (Seltz Water, Case 12 1/2 Gal. Bot

Lithia, (Carbonated, " 50 Quart "

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PROCLAMATION CONCERNING DOGS

IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD.

The Township Committee of the town

ship of Bloomfield, in the County of Es

sex, and myself, Township Clerk of the

said township, being of the opinion that

the public safety requires the issuing of

this proclamation, I, Edward F. Far

rand the said Township Clerk, by the ad

vice of the said Township Committee, do

hereby authorize the destruction by any

person or persons, of all dogs, male and

female, found running at large within the

limits of said township, on and after the

first day of June next, until the first day

of November next, except such as shall be

properly muzzled, with a wire muzzle

about the nose, securely fastened, pro

vided that nothing in this proclamation

shall apply to a dog or dogs of a non-resi

dent passing through the town, accom

panied by the owner or owners, of such

dog or dogs.

Dated at Bloomfield, N. J., this 2th

day of May, 1889.

WARD F. FARRAND,

Township Clerk.

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